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82-3407

8 OCT 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director for Operations

FROM: [REDACTED]
Chief, Africa Division

SUBJECT: Appointment with U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria,
Mr. Thomas R. Pickering

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1. The United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Thomas R. Pickering, will meet with you at 1000 hours on 14 October 1982. He will be accompanied by [REDACTED] Ambassador Pickering is here on consultations with the Department of State and was on home leave during your recent visit to Nigeria. We assume the purpose of Ambassador Pickering's visit is to discuss your impressions of Nigeria and to hear about [REDACTED] views on Namibia and present US-Nigerian relations.

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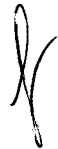
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2. Attached for your information are a biographic data sheet on Ambassador Pickering, a briefing paper on Nigeria with a map [REDACTED]

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CONCUR:


Deputy Director for Operations

Date

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Bio Data - Amb Pickering
- B. Briefing Paper on Nigeria w/map

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COUNTRY FACT SHEET

NAME: Nigeria

CAPITAL: Lagos

POPULATION: 79.8 million (unauthoritative 1973 census)

AREA: 357,000 square miles (about the size of California, Nevada and Arizona combined)

GDP: \$27 billion (1976 est.)

PER CAPITA GDP: \$333 (1976 est.)

A BRIEF BACKGROUND ON NIGERIA:

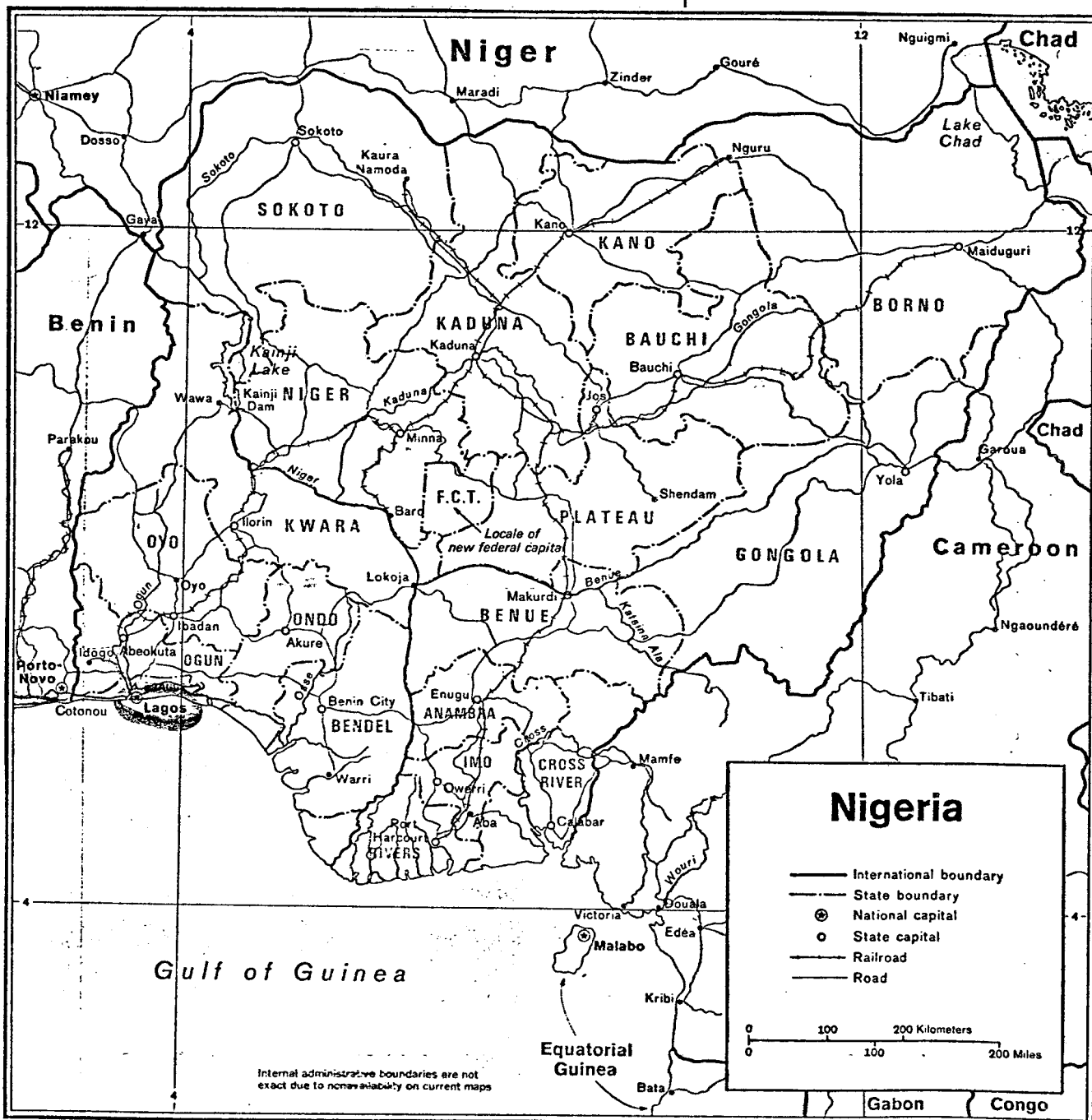
Nigeria, which was granted its full independence from Britain on October 1, 1960, was formerly administered by the Federal Military Government headed by General Olusegun Obasanjo, who replaced General Murtala Muhammed following his assassination on February 13, 1976 in an abortive coup plot. General Obasanjo continued the policies, both internal and external, of his predecessor.

The Obasanjo administration's program for returning to civilian rule and a democratically-elected government proceeded on schedule and the turnover took place on October 1, 1979. Elections for the Senate, House and Gubernatorial seats were held between July 7 and August 11, 1979. Although the presidential election was contested in the courts by the defeated political parties, Shehu Shagari was declared the winner. Shagari (the standard bearer of the conservative, Northern, Muslim-oriented National Party of Nigeria), is a 57 year old Muslim Fulani tribesman with intensive parliamentary and ministerial experience whose leadership style is low key and pragmatic.

Nigeria's foreign policy is expected to continue to be activist, to assume that Nigeria is destined for African leadership with a special role to play in eliminating white minority rule and racism in southern Africa, and to adhere to strict non-alignment outside Africa.

Internally, Nigeria faces numerous problems, not the least of which is its experiment with a new, American-modeled constitution, although most Nigerians appear to favor giving the new system a chance. Oil wealth and massive development spending have resulted in social and economic tensions based on a growing disparity between the privileged few and the masses, on regional inequities in shares of federal funds, and on inadequate public services and housing. These, along with growing unrest by organized labor, pose potentially severe challenges to the government's ability to firmly establish itself as a viable alternative to the former military government.

Economically, Nigeria depends on petroleum sales for more than 95% of its foreign exchange and between 75 and 80% of its public revenues. The United States is the major foreign market (50%) for Nigeria's crude oil and Nigeria ranks second only to Saudi Arabia as the largest supplier of oil to the United States (16% of United States imports).



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